

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

February 27, 2001 LB 51

So what I have to do is try to use an analogy. The Huns, the Huns were not known to be nice people, but because they were so mean and hateful people would sometimes employ them as guards. The opening to any structure or building in the old days would be guarded by a gate, and if you had one of the Huns there that was known as a "Hun gate". And you didn't mess with the Hun gate. Now a Hun gate is all right to have if you're talking about a maximum security prison, but there should not be a Hun gate at the entryway to the Chamber wherein sit people who represent the interests of the public. And when something inappropriate is done and I'm told that you need to hire a private detective to get at the truth, that is crazy. And when some other person says, I don't think he did anything wrong and he shouldn't be punished, it means to me that that person has the same attitude and I need to do some inquiring to find out how many people were mistreated in this way. If we have a situation where two people are involved, one white and one black, and let's say that there's been an advertisement in the paper that an apartment is for rent and people have made complaints that there's discrimination of a racial nature here because whenever a black person comes he or she is turned away, that happens so regularly, and white people would go into denial as some people around here are in denial and say, well, I don't believe there's anything racial. So what different organizations would do is send a white person after a black person had gone there and been turned away. The white person is rented the apartment, the white person is given the job, and all the way across the board. Well, in this instance, it happens that the white woman was given the service that the person was hired to perform. The black woman comes right behind her, and you know what I'm told? He couldn't hear. He's got a hearing problem. This is what I'm told. I didn't buy that. Well, he couldn't understand Cindy. That's the worst racist stereotype you can give when you say white people cannot understand a black person who is speaking English, and this is the first time I've ever heard anybody around here say they could not understand Cindy when she spoke, despite the fact that she gave an extended explanation of what she wanted. Then the person said, even though she's been around here 29 years, I don't...I didn't know her. It's not his job to know anybody, so that tells me if a black person comes up and he doesn't know the black person, the